President : The debate on the budget will begin today with a general discussion followed by the voting of demands for grants from the next day. The maximum of four days allowed under Rule 74 of the Legislative Rules has been allotted for the latter. The demands will be discussed in the order in which they appear in the printed list placed in your hands. The demand under III—Public Works Department, including Water Works and Drainage may be discussed for two hours, and not more than one hour will be allotted for each of the remaining demands. If the time taken up for questions and answers is less than an hour, the remaining time will also be available to the House for the voting of demands, but such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any one demand, and will only enable the House to reach more demands.

Honourable members of the Council are, of course, aware that they should discuss each demand as a whole, and vote upon it as a whole, without moving for the reduction of any grant or of any item in a grant. To enable the discussion of each demand in the Council, it is not necessary that the members should send in any specific motion, and the Council will have the right to assent or refuse its assent to any demand when it is put to the House.

During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a large number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debate.

DEWAN-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

There are one or two omissions that I noticed in the statement that I made yesterday and in pursuance of the policy that this House should be kept fully aware of the developments that have taken place, I am making those statements in relation to that today. Honourable members of this House will be aware that there have been some questions raised as to the scale of payments to the members of the Legislature. Opinion was expressed that the present system was giving rise to certain hardships in the case of members elected to various Select Committees and Advisory Bodies and it was suggested that travelling allowances and halting allowances in respect of them were necessary under present conditions. One of the reasons which prompted Government to adopt the rules which are now in force was that there was a tremendous

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amount of needless competition, perhaps, for election to the various committees and it was considered that the competition might be eliminated. But Government were not prepared for the results that actually ensued. We found that a number of meetings had to be postponed for want of quorum. So it came to the alternative of either having too much competition for election or no quorum for the conduct of meetings. Other difficulties such as the present high rate of charges for catering and transport, were brought to the notice of Government.

Now, the plan which has been generally accepted in the other House is, to bring into operation rules by which, subject to the opinion of this honourable House, honourable members of the Legislature will be paid their remuneration which will include visits to Trivandrum for the general meetings of the Legislature such as the Budget and other meetings and they will be paid their usual travelling expenses and detention expenses for Advisory Committees and the Select Committees. That is a matter which will be adequately discussed at the time when the Demand under Legislative Bodies comes up. I think it is as well that honourable members should know of it and therefore I have given that information.

Another point which has aroused a great deal of interest and controversy relates to the scarcity of Anchal envelopes throughout the country. We found on looking into the matter that the trouble was partly due to the greatly increased demand for Anchal envelopes amounting to nearly 40 per cent. more than the demand for the last year. It was also discovered that the origin of the evil was due to certain merchants and institutions buying a large stock and selling it at high prices. Therefore, there was hoarding and profiteering practised in respect of Anchal envelopes. In order to get over the difficulty Government have, by way of experiment, introduced a rule which will come into operation from day after to-morrow that Anchal envelopes will here after be sold only in Anchal offices and will not be available for sale elsewhere.

There is another matter which the honourable members may be very interested to know because it has arisen as a result of very recent events. Honourable members have, no doubt, read something about atomic bombs and honourable members might have realised that one of the most important components of that bomb which is now used destructively but which later on, it is hoped, might become a great instrument to facilitate power production, is uranium. Equally important is a metal called thorium which is very widely scattered in our mineral sands. The whole matter has been discussed by Sir C. V. Raman and he has pointed out that thorium is also capable of fission in the same way as uranium.

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[President.]

The advice of other experts also concurs with his views and it therefore becomes all the more necessary for us in view to the possible developments, to conserve our mineral sands in the direction already taken by the Government.

Lastly, there is a matter which I must bring to the notice of this honourable House. It is a question of privileges. In dealing with certain events that happened in the Legislature, a newspaper "The Deepika," has stated that according to reports received by it, the Dewan President kept quite when a certain member spoke something on a resolution with regard to religious instruction. The imputation is that the Dewan was actuated by communal bias and so he did not pull up the member when he suggested in the first place that this was a Hindu State and secondly that religious instruction should not be given in schools and colleges.

Now, into the merits of the question I do not enter, nor do I propose at this stage to discuss the very curious argument as to this State being a Hindu State, which of course it is. The question does not arise in that form. The imputation is that the Chair permitted such discussion. As a matter of fact, the Chair at once pulled up the member and said he has talking irrelevent things when he introduced the subject, namely of this State being a Hindu State. A newspaper which deliberately omits that and puts forward a suggestion which imputes communal bias on the part of the President is thereby infringing the decencies of debate. I do not wish to be too strict. Probably the newspaper has proceeded on imperfect information. But unless it verifies these matters and is willing to publish an ample apology, the Press privileges of that paper will be withdrawn. It is a matter which the newspaper has to consider and decide upon.

The general discussion will now commence.

THE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. T. W. U. Park (*The Travancore Planters*): Sir, it has been my privilege for some years to offer congratulations to the Government on the excellent state of the country's finances and to voice my appreciation of the extraordinarily able way in which Financial Secretaries have presented their budgets. This year can be no exception, in fact there is a particular reason for our congratulations for, with an anticipated revenue this year of over Rs. 6 crores and an estimated revenue next year of nearly Rs. 6¼ crores, a financial epoch has been reached in the annals of Travancore. This achievement must give very great satisfaction throughout the country, and I imagine, will create a considerable feeling of envy elsewhere.....

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